

***Leopoldius signatus* (Wiederman) (Diptera: Conopidae) in outer London.**

Nationally, *Leopoldius signatus* is very scarce; however, in the south London suburb of Merton, I have frequently encountered this species at ivy blossom. My first experience of this insect was in Morden Hall Park (TQ2668), on 30th October 1984, where some very fine ivy covered trees and walls were ideal for a variety of autumnal species. I subsequently saw this species on a number of further occasions, sometimes more than single individuals. The following year (1985), *L. signatus* was also found at Bennetts Hole (TQ265 675), a site on the River Wandle about a mile from Morden Hall Park.

This year, I made a specific effort to find *L. signatus* on Mitcham Common (TQ28306805) and met with success on my second attempt. So far, I have only taken a single individual which was sitting on a shady patch of ivy away from the main patch that I was observing. During the same visit, I also found two *Didea fasciata*, another nationally scarce species which is well established on this site. Indeed, my last record for this species on Mitcham Common is 10th October (1990), a single individual sunning itself on an oak leaf.

L. signatus is thought to parasitise vespids (Smith 1969); however, during all of my observations of *L. signatus*, I have never witnessed an attempt to parasitise a host. Vespids are usually abundant at the sites I have found and those that I have examined have all proved so far to be *Vespula vulgaris* which seems to be the prime candidate as host. [Reference: Smith, K.G.V. 1969 *Diptera: Conopidae. Handbk. Ident. Br. Insects* 10 (3a). Royal Entomological Society of London.]—R.K. MORRIS, 241 Commonside East, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1HB.

Rothamsted farmland light trap network: interesting Lepidoptera records for July, 1990.

Continuing our monthly reports of unusual Lepidoptera records from the network of light traps operating on the Rothamsted Estate, the following are particularly noteworthy for July.

Idaea vulpinaria H.-S. was first recorded on the estate in June, 1990 (*antea*: 22). During July a further eight individuals were caught, each at a different site. This suggests that *I. vulpinaria* is widespread and well established in the area. *Phlyctaenia perlucidalis* Hb. was also discussed in the report for June (*loc. cit.*) and a further specimen was caught in an estate network trap on 16th July. Singletons were also recorded in the national network traps at Empingham, Leicestershire (Site No. 497; OS grid ref. SK953 087) on the 17th and Terrington St Clements, Norfolk (Site No. 381, OS grid ref. TF547 186) on 12th July.

Idaea straminata Borkh. (one on 18th July), *Hyloicus pinastri* L. (one at m.v. on 15th/16th) and *Eilema deplana* Esp. (one on 29th) were all recorded on the estate for the first time.